

Meteor

Heraut

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Quick Read

SHAPE/Chièvres

Holiday Mailings

To ensure letters and packages to the United States are delivered before Christmas, the Post Office has established the following deadlines:

Nov. 18 SAM Parcels
Dec. 02 PAL Parcels
Dec. 09 Priority Parcels
Dec. 09 First Class Mail
Dec. 21 Express Mail

Chièvres Air Base APO will provide package mailing, stamp and money order services through Dec. 16, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The SHAPE and Chièvres annual holiday tree lighting ceremony, sponsored by the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, will be held Dec. 2 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Community Activity Center, Chièvres Air Base.

Iron Shapian Competition

The U.S. Army NATO, SHAPE Battalion is sponsoring a five-event Iron Shapian competition Nov. 24 at the SHAPE main gym.

The competition is open to all SHAPE identification card holders. There is a 10 euro registration fee. Competitors will be judged in push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups and dips, along with a four-mile run.

Qualification standards per event include:

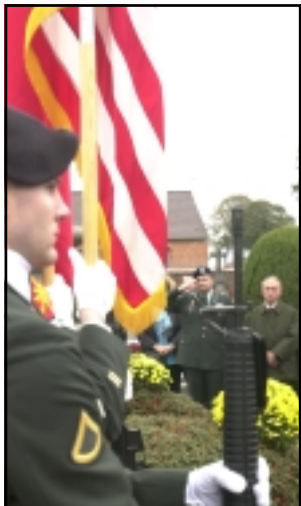
Men:

Push-ups	75 minimum
Sit-ups	85 minimum
Pull-ups	10 minimum
Dips	25 minimum
Four-mile run	28:00 maximum

Women:

Push-ups	60 minimum
Sit-ups	85 minimum
Pull-ups	5 minimum
Dips	10 minimum
Four-mile run	31:00 maximum

Registration deadline for the event is Nov. 21. Call 423-7299/7246, visit Bldg. 212, or request a registration form on-line at ironshapian@usanato.army.mil.



Lt. Col. John G. Romero, Chièvres Garrison commander, salutes during Armistice and Veterans Day celebrations at the cemetery in Chièvres, Belgium.



PHOTOS: J.D. Hardesty

The USAG Benelux color guard, under the direction of Staff Sgt. Dekishon Rogers, leads a procession of local dignitaries, followed by the Royal Fanfare of Chièvres Band and residents as they march from a veterans memorial at the community school to the cemetery in Chièvres, Belgium to honor those who fought for freedom as part of Armistice Day and Veterans Day celebrations.

Veterans Day

Comanche answers call

By J.D. Hardesty

As Europeans and American's jointly honored veterans who fought in what Belgians refer to as the "Great War" and World War II Nov. 11, an anecdote from those bloodstained battlefields comes from warriors, Choctaw and Comanche Indians, at the time, many of which weren't citizens of the country whose uniform they wore.

One such Choctaw Soldier entrenched in battle, Solomon Louis, who, when interviewed as the last surviving WWI code talker in 1986, explained "talking in native tongues sped up the communication process of sensitive information and helped save American lives."

The use of indigenous American languages (code talkers) came to the forefront during the Second World War as well.

"Code talkers" is the term used to describe Soldiers from various Indian tribes who communicated on radios, telephones and telegraph during World Wars I and II. They spoke in their own languages and dialects, many of which were not written down and all of which were indecipherable by enemy forces.

There were heroes from each war, but many of their stories haven't often been told. As part of a recruited class of code talkers, Cpl. Charles Chibitty left the Indian School near Fort Sill, Okla., to used his native tongue to communicate sensitive information throughout the European Theater during WWII while assigned to the 4th Signal Company, 4th Infantry Division

Chibitty, 84, the last of the Comanche "code talkers," died July 20 this year in Tulsa, Okla. He also reportedly was the last hereditary chief of the Comanche, having descended from the great leader, Chief Ten Bears.

He became a legend in the Army, as well as in his native Comanche tribe in Oklahoma.

"While I went to Fort Sill Indian School when I was little," he explained in the documentary film "Hidden Path, "Way back in '26, '27, on up to 1930, we were forbidden to talk out tribal language."

When caught speaking Comanche, Chibitty said, "They

wash my mouth out with that old yellow soap and they tell me to stop talking that dirty language."

Shipped to Fort Benning, Ga., with fellow members of his tribe, Chibitty and the others joined the Signal Corps, learning to Soldier, lay wire and maintain all forms of communication equipment.

According to the book "The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II, they also had to adapt military terms to their language. Since there were many military words that had no meaning in the Comanche language, Chibitty and other Soldiers had to invent their own unique military lingo. For example, they used the Comanche word for "turtle" to signify "tank."

Chibitty saw plenty of fighting during the landings at Utah Beach during the D-Day Normandy invasion in June 1944. He immediately put his skills to use, directing aircraft and naval gunfire to targets and informing other Comanche code breakers at higher headquarters of the tactical situation on the ground and relaying information back to his unit commander.

His cousin, Larry Saupitty, served as the personal orderly and code talker for the assistant division commanding gen-

See CHIBITTY, Page 3



PHOTO: Courtesy Army News Service

Charles Chibitty, the last surviving Comanche code talker from World War II, who fought with the 4th Signal Company, 4th Infantry Division throughout Europe, died in Tulsa, Okla., July 20.



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski
USAG Benelux Commander

Two subjects for this edition of the Notes: Energy and Combined Federal Campaign. First, let's discuss the subject of energy use in the United States Army Garrison Benelux. We need your help. As you might expect, we are now in the season of the year when the costs of energy go up. I'm talking about the energy it takes to power the

Nowowiejski Notes

lights in offices, government buildings, and some quarters. I'm talking about the energy it takes to heat buildings and to power government vehicles. You've heard this subject before, but let me give you a couple of new considerations.

First, when we pay the utility bills in Europe, we are paying in euros. You very well know from your own personal finances the cost of the dollar to euro conversion. It's expensive. Second, energy costs themselves have gone way up. You know about that when you buy gas coupons. Energy costs for power and light and to run government vehicles have gone way up, too. Energy costs are a significant expenditure on your tax dollar.

Why should you care about this? It's really pretty simple. Every dollar that you save in being energy conscious, in being energy conservative,

and a smart energy consumer is a tax dollar that comes back to you in the form of other base operations that count for programs that you care about, for the long term. As a consumer, you have a choice. You can turn out the lights in your office when you are not there, turn off your computer monitor and printer when you are not using them, keep your porch lights off when you aren't moving in and out of your quarters, save a gallon of gas in your GOV by driving slower and having your tires properly inflated, or you can ignore all those things and waste the money.

When we spend our base operations funds to pay higher utility and fuel bills, we don't have funds to improve the child care facilities, the lodging facilities, religious facilities, community service facilities and programs like we would like to. We spend the money on

energy all winter and don't have base operations funds left to make the improvements we would like. We assure you we are carefully looking all the time at how to make the Benelux a better place to live and work. Will you help by being energy conscious this winter?

Combined Federal Campaign. By now you should know that this is the CFC season. Our campaign is scheduled to end Dec. 3. You should have been given an opportunity to donate by now. This is really a chance for you to help yourself or someone you care about. Our contacts about contributions are up from last year, and the amount of money being donated is down. This is a way to help those who have sustained disasters this last year, or those who have been wounded, or who are deployed. Please carefully consider your part in helping others in this CFC season. If you need a donation form and can't get one where you work, please call Quentin Jackson, the CFC coordinator for USAG Benelux, at DSN: 361 6200 or 068-27-6200.

Students face future decisions at SHAPE College Night, Career Launch

PHOTO: Courtesy SHAPE American School

(Left photo) Ryan Covington and Ashley Nelson (standing), both juniors at SHAPE American High School, discuss what Auburn University would have to offer them during the first College Night, Career Launch Nov. 9, sponsored by the school with current students there who are also doing their student teaching here at SHAPE American Elementary and High schools (seated) Cassie Keith, Rebecca Stutts, and Amy Voss. (Right photo) Juniors Kacie Kappenman and Trish Puttmann (standing) talk with William and Mary alums Megan Stewart and Sue Brown while prospecting their academic future.



Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy is due at noon

Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date
Nov. 21	Dec. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Feb. 10	Feb. 27	Mar. 10
Dec. 5	Dec. 16	Jan. 16	Jan. 27	Feb. 13	Feb. 24	Mar. 13	Mar. 24

About the Meteor-Heraut

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- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor-Heraut*.

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Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 11 calendar days before publication date.

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Lauri Garcia	USAG Schinnen
Thad Moysiewicz	USAG Brussels
Cis Spook	Chièvres Garrison
J.D. Hardesty	Writer

CHIBITTY

eral, Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., as other Comanches were assigned to the landing infantry regiments participating in the initial assault on Utah Beach. Other code talkers were assigned to division artillery and division headquarters and joined the battle June 7, 1944.

Chibitty survived the landing and saw a lot more action throughout France and during the Battle of the Bulge. He and his unit were among the first Americans to liberate Paris and later to enter Germany.

He battled through the Huertgen Forest and was fighting in Luxembourg during the German Ardennes Counteroffensive in December of 1944.

“When they sent us to the Huertgen Forest, it started snowing, but me and another Signal Corps Indian laid the telephone line to the infantry,” he said. “Once in a while we had to get in battle, but we would fall back because they didn’t want us to get killed. Our job was to send messages, just like those Navajos with the Marines in the Pacific.”

Chibitty and his fellow Soldiers fought through southeastern Belgium and the Battle of the Bulge area with the 4th Division in late December of 1944 and January of 1945.

Very humble about his service during the war, he described how Native Americans volunteered for military service because of their warrior ethos in a 2000 interview while being inducted to the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. Wearing his warrior bonnet with a red Comanche code talker vest decorated with various medals he earned during his WWII campaigns, he said, “In the 1800s, we were a society of warriors. That’s what men in our tribe did. Joining the Army

allowed us to earn the warrior respect and honor of our fathers and forefathers.”

In addition to code talking, Chibitty became a champion boxer in the Army. Later in life, he became a much acclaimed and prize-winning Comanche war dancer. He had even danced for fellow Soldiers while attending basic training.

While many tribes participated as code talkers during the war, either formally or informally, the Native Americans contributions remained in relative obscurity for decades.

The French presented Chibitty and other Comanche code talkers with their second-highest medal for valor, the Chevalier de L’Ordre National du Merite.

In 1999, the Department of Defense recognized Chibitty, who was then 78, and the last surviving member of the Comanche code talkers. He was honored in the Hall of Heroes inside the Pentagon for his extraordinary bravery and achievements.

At the ceremony, he didn’t dwell much on his own combat actions, preferring rather to speak of the achievements of his fellow Comanche code talkers. He recounted the story of one code talker, Willie Yackeschi, who was wounded in the back with shrapnel. “Yackeschi and I were pinned down by mortar fire,” he said of his situation. Yackeschi was raked across the back with shrapnel. Not wanting to leave his unit or fellow Soldiers, he refused to be evacuated to the rear and continued to fight and code talk. His wounds were treated and he survived the war. Other Comanche code talkers were wounded as well, but all 17 survived the fighting.

“We told him he was crazy as hell,” Chibitty said.

Code Talkers

World War I

- Choctaw (15)
- Cherokee
- Comanche
- Cheyenne
- Osage
- Yankton Sioux

World War II

- Assiniboine
- Cherokee
- Chippewas/Oneida (17)
- Choctaw
- Comanche (17)
- Hopi (11)
- Kiowa
- Menominee
- Muscogee/Creek and Seminole
- Navajo (420)
- Pawnee
- Sac and Fox

Sioux (Lakota and Dakota Dialects)

Source: The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II, William C. Meadows (Number code talkers per tribe recruited by the Military)

(Editor’s note: November is Native American Heritage Month and the Army has created a special Web site for the observance at www.army.mil/americanindians.) David Vergun, Army News Service, contributed information for this article.

Advertisement



USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News



Photos by: Harry Reinders

By Laurri Garcia

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen was over run by ghouls, goblins, princes and ladies, Oct. 28, at its 2005 Schinnen Halloween Trunk or Treat celebration.

Children from throughout the Tri-border community turned out for tricks, treats and an array of goodies on an evening that proved to be a haunting success.

"We saw record crowds this year thanks to perfect weather, generous donations, sponsorship and an overall tremendous team effort," said Ellison Meier, DMWR advertising and marketing director.

Participants received candy and surprises as they followed the

spooky trunk or treat trail lined with vehicles and decorated tables.

USAG Schinnen does not have a standard housing area like of many posts throughout Europe, so community members sign up to participate in the occasion giving children here the opportunity to share in the Halloween experience.

It is a way of providing a touch of home to the American children and sharing a bit of our culture with our European friends.

"Each child received a free Beanie Baby and other goodies thanks to Ty, Inc., United Furniture and the 35 individuals and groups who signed up for a station at this spooktacular Halloween event," concluded Meier.

Above: (from top) Tri-border are children line up to make their way along the spooky trunk or treat trail. Below: Frankenstei nish ghouls greet those who dare to enter the haunted house. Below: (left) Tricks and treats lined the walk as children made their way to each station gathering goodies.



USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News



PHOTOS: Courtesy Capt. E.T. Tornabell IV

AFNORTH Battalion member, Capt. E. T. Tornabell assists FedEx personnel in loading items donated by members of the JFC Brunssum community to assist those affected by Hurricane Katrina into a FedEx truck.

Providing hope to Katrina victims

By Capt. Ernest Tornabell IV

As Hurricane Katrina began its trek towards the U.S. Gulf Coast states, members of the U.S. Delegation at Joint Force Command Brunssum began preparations to help those who would be affected. Capt. Ernest Tornabell IV, the operations officer for the U.S. Army AFNORTH battalion at JFC Brunssum initiated a clothing donation drive that began Sept. 5 and lasted for two weeks.

Members of the JFC Brunssum community donated clothing, shoes, bedding, sheets and other items that would be essential for displaced personnel. Tornabell, his wife, Sharleen, and several volunteers from the American Spouses Club as well as members of the AFNORTH battalion spent numerous hours during the week and over several weekends sorting, packing, and chronologing all the donated items.

While packing preparations were continuing, U.S. Air Force personnel solicited support from local air bases

for any and all transportation that might be able to take these donated goods back to the US. As NATO began its airlift capabilities, it seemed a sure thing that the donated goods would be able to be placed on a NATO airplane bound for the affected regions. However, this would not be the case. NATO airlift capabilities were only allowed for "official" donations from countries, not for private donations from military and civilians stationed with JFC Brunssum. This posed a new problem.

The clothing drive came to an end in mid September and was more successful than first anticipated. The AFNORTH Battalion had collected over 1800 kgs of donated goods boxed in over 100 boxes.

As the NATO airlift capabilities were denied, a second transportation route needed to be taken. It was at this time that FedEx Express in Belgium graciously offered to ship all

donated goods "gratis," back to the nearest FedEx Express hub in the United States.

The goods were slated to go to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. and the closest hub was located at the International Airport in Birmingham.

On Oct. 14, a month after collections had ended, Tornabell accompanied a transportation truck from JFC Brunssum to Melsbroek, Belgium for delivery of the donations to the FedEx Express regional site. Tornabell finally met with Patrick Roedolf at the FedEx Express shipping center to transfer the goods for the next destination, the U.S.

FedEx's generous offer to provide transportation gives Soldiers, Sailors, and Airman from 26 different NATO nations the opportunity to donate much needed supplies to those whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Because of their cooperation, displaced families from Louisiana will be able to have clothing, blankets, sheets, pillows and other items for the coming months as they rebuild their lives.



JFC Brunssum community members donated more than 1,800 kilograms of goods for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner

If you are an unaccompanied Airman, Soldier, Sailor or family of a deployed service member, then you are cordially invited to attend a free Thanksgiving Dinner, Nov. 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the JFC Brunssum International Inn.

For more information please contact your first sergeant.

Mark your calendars!

Tri-border Christmas Tree Lighting, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.

USAG Schinnen, Tri-border Town Hall Meeting, Dec 7, at 7 p.m. in the Schinnen Fitness Center.

Damage claims, vehicle security barriers

Provided by:
The Netherlands Law Center

Vehicle security barriers have become a frequent sight at installations all over Europe. In fact, personnel assigned to AFNORTH and the Schinnen communities may have noticed one of the Nasatka Mobile Traffic Barriers (NMTB) at the Child Development Center in Brunssum.

These barriers are very helpful in maintaining security and are designed to be driven over safely. However, there are rare times when a vehicle's tires or underbody may be damaged when navigating over a

NMTB barrier—even when a driver exercises caution and patience. The U.S. Army Claims Service in Fort Meade, Md. has provided claims policy guidance in determining whether a private vehicle (POV) damage claim will be eligible for compensation. Unfortunately, the general answer is no—personal claims for POV damage are not compensable.

The U.S. Army Claims Service has determined that in the majority of cases, the damage was caused by driver error, either by driving too fast over the barrier or because the vehicle's chassis was too low to the ground to safely cross the barrier. It is possible for a

claimant to rebut this general guidance.

A claimant must illustrate unique and special facts that would establish negligence in the placement or operation of the NMTB barrier.

For example, the POV damage was caused by operator error when the guard caused the barrier to rise while the POV had not yet fully crossed over the barrier. If your POV is damaged in unique circumstances, write down the facts. Have the guards initiate a log entry or call the MPs and file an MP report. Make sure to get the names and telephone numbers of any witnesses and the guards involved. Take

a photograph of the scene and the damage if you have a camera available.

POV drivers must cross over a barrier slowly in order to do so safely. This requirement ensures both protection for the vehicle and safety at the checkpoint area.

The lower the POV chassis to the ground, the slower the car should travel over the barrier.

Remember, these barriers are in place for all of our protection. Please call the Treebeek Claims Office at DSN 364-6211 or 045-563-6211 with any questions.



USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News



PHOTO by Jan Maessen



PHOTO by Laurri Garcia

(Left) Lt. Col. Rick Richardson and Lt. Col. Scott Borderud place a wreath at a Veteran's Day Ceremony, Nov. 11, at Margraten American Cemetery, The Netherlands. (Above) AFNORTH Int. School JROTC Color Guard represent their school and students from the Tri-border area at this year's Veteran's Day Observance.



COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

Combined Federal Campaign

The overseas Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for FY 2005/2006 has begun and runs through Dec. 15. Donors may designate a charity or charities to receive their money by filling out a pledge card. Donations can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction. CFC officials said that on average, one in four federal employees or their dependents will benefit from the campaign charities this year.

For information on CFC call DSN 360-7305 or check the CFC web site www.opm.gov/cfc.

Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

Nov. 18-23: *Margriet Winter Fair* at Jaarbeurs in the center of Utrecht (NL), large winter fair with workshops, demonstrations, entertainment and lots to see. Entry: 16 Euro.

Nov. 18-Dec. 20: *Christmas Market in "Fluweelengrot"* (Velvet Cave) on Daalhemmerweg 27 in Valkenburg (NL). A unique Christmas Market in a winter wonderland fairy tale theme. Open in November on weekdays, 2-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Open in December on weekdays, noon-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: 3.50 Euro; children 1.75 Euro. Information: 31 (0)43-6090110.

Nov. 18-Dec. 23: *Christmas Market* around the town hall in the historic center of Aachen (GE). Open daily 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Nov. 18-Dec. 31: *Christmas Market in a Cave*, an attractive fair at Gemeentegrot (cave) in the center of Valkenburg (NL). Open on weekdays, noon-9 p.m. and on weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: 3.50 Euro; children 1.75 Euro.

Nov. 19-20: *Classic Car Fair* at Autotron in Rosmalen (NL). Here one will find everything on classic and old timer cars, like parts, a fully restored old timer car and lots of information. Entry: 8 Euro; children (4-11) 5 Euro. Information: 31 (0)73-5233300.

Nov. 20: *"Woonmecca"* a large interior and exterior fair at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Entry: 7.50 Euro; children 3.50 Euro. Information: 31 (0)43-3838383.

Nov. 20-27: *PAN Pictura Antiquairs National* at RAI in Amsterdam (NL). National Art & Antique Fair with over 110 art and antique dealers presenting an abundance of old masters, antiques and contemporary art. Entry: 12.50 Euro; Children (12-18) 5 Euro. Information: 31 (0)20-5491212.

Nov. 23-27: *Country & Christmas Fair 2005* at Castle "De Haar" on Kasteellaan 1 in Haarzuilens (NL).

Participants give visitors an idea how Christmas is celebrated in the country at a castle. Entry: 13.50 Euro; children (12-16) 7 Euro. Parking: 5 Euro. Open: Nov. 23-26, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and Nov. 27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Nov. 24-27: *Jumping Indoor Maastricht*, an international horse show combining top-class sport and entertainment at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Information: 31 (0)43-3838383.

Nov. 25-Dec. 23: *Christmas Market* in the majority of German cities.

Nov. 25-Dec. 23: *Christmas Market* in the center of Cologne (GE).

Nov. 25-Dec. 23: *Christmas Market* in the beautiful town of Monschau (GE). Only open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 2-8 p.m.

Nov. 26-Jan. 8: *Winterland* at Vrijthof in the center of Maastricht (NL). The square is transformed into a large ice-skating rink, with old-fashion steam carousel and stands with glühwein, hot chocolate and winter food. A *Christmas Market* is scheduled in the same square through Dec. 26.

Dec. 2-Jan. 1: *European Christmas Market* at Grote Markt, Sint-Katelijneplein and Vismarkt in the center of Brussels (BE) with 240 stands, ice-skating rink, rides and lots more.

Dec. 3-6: *Christmas Fair* at Beursgebouw, next to the central train station, in Eindhoven (NL). Open every day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: 8 Euro.

Dec. 31: *De Ontdekking van de Wereld (The discovery of the World)* at Scheepsvaartmuseum in Amsterdam (NL). An exhibition on Dutch explorers with on display objects and decors from Nova Zembla, New York, Suriname, Cape Good Hope, the Dutch East Indies and Australia.

Satellite dishes

DPW Housing Division

All of the government leased quarters have cable connections for receiving locally provided radio and television channels.

Schinnen housing officials have noticed an increase in occupants requesting to install an AFN satellite dish. This is possible, but tenants must comply with procedures provided in the Housing Manual (appendix B) before having a satellite dish installed by a certified company.

Request for permission to install a satellite dish will be submitted to the housing division using the standard format for alterations available at the housing division's assignment and termination section.

Any satellite dish installation must be inspected by the electric shop of the DPW/O&M division to ensure proper installation has been performed.

For privately leased quarters contact the housing referral office. They will help tenants obtain the appropriate approval from the landlord.

Local law says that it is not allowed to install a satellite on the front of the house or if the house is on a corner, the street side. That means that satellite dishes may only be installed on the back side of the house. Satellite dishes connected to balconies are prohibited at all government controlled quarters.

Many government controlled quarters currently have satellite dishes that are not properly installed, such as the way it is fastened or holes through the window frames or running a cable on the outside of the house.

Keep in mind that improper installation causing damage to property will be charged to the occupant. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that proper procedures and installation are followed. Random checks will be performed to ensure compliance.

For more information please contact the housing office at DSN 360-7449/7340/7465 or comm. 046-4437.



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